

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 00983 211038Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /072 W

-----069680 211311Z /72R

R 211003Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5088

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0983

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP, CH

SUBJECT: LUNCHEON WITH PRC AMBASSADOR TO BURMA

REF: (A) RANGOON 813 (B) STATE 63340

1. AMBASSADOR BEAN HOSTED A LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, MARCH 19, ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR LEONARD WOODCOCK, PRC AMBASSADOR MO YEN CH'UNG AND THE PRC AMBASSADOR'S INTERPRETER. THE EVENT LASTED 1-1/2 HOURS AND WAS PRIMARILY A SOCIAL OCCASION. CONVERSATION RANGED FROM THE WEATHER (BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND PEKING) TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA.

2. THE CONVERSATION CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AND AMBASSADOR MO ADHERED TO THE PRC PARTY LINE. HE INDICATED THAT SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING, SAID THE TENG HSIAO-PENG VISIT TO BURMA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL FROM THE PRC POINT OF VIEW, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SINCE LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WERE

FRATERNAL STATES, THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY RESOLVE THEIR BORDER PROBLEMS THROUGH NEGOTIATION. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT RESOLUTION OF THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER PROBLEM, SAYING THAT THE CAMBODIANS FELT THAT IN TIMES PAST SOME OF THEIR NATIONAL TERRITORY HAD BEEN WRONGFULLY TAKEN FROM THEM.

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 00983 211038Z

3. AMBASSADOR MO WAS EXPECTEDLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET-CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. HIS COMMENTS INCLUDED THE OBSERVATION THAT AFRICANS SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE TO SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF NON-AFRICAN STATES, IMPLYING THAT THE PRC DID NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES. (WE DID NOT ASK HIM ABOUT PRC

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BCP IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE). HE MADE  
SIMILAR NOISES CONCERNING RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

4. AMBASSADOR MO NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF NORMALIZATION OF  
PRC-US RELATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS A LONGSTANDING  
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED  
APPRECIATION FOR HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK WITH  
AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK AND SAID HE WISHED TO RECIPROCATE AMBASSADOR  
BEAN'S HOSPITALITY ON SOME FUTURE APPROPRIATE OCCASION.

5. WE DID NOT RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED ASIAN UNITY  
CONFERENCE AS NO SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF. HOWEVER,  
IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF THE SEVERAL RECENT OR PLANNED PRC  
VISITS TO SOUTH AND SEASIA, MO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRC IS  
EMBARKED ON A PROGRAM OF IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS ASIAN  
NEIGHBORS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE LUNCHEON MAY HAVE BEEN A NON-EVENT IN  
TERMS OF NEW INFORMATION DEVELOPED, IT PROBABLY WILL BE CONSIDERED  
OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE BY GUB OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
WHEN THE WORD GETS AROUND (AS IT INEVITABLY WILL) THAT THE EVENT  
OCCURRED. IT WILL BE VIEWED AS A POSITIVE GESTURE BY THIS EMBASSY  
AND MAY RESULT IN A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRC AND  
AMERICAN EMBASSIES. THE BURMESE WILL PROBABLY SEE IT AS AN  
EXPRESSION OF AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF BURMA'S PROBLEMS WITH HER  
NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH. END COMMENT.  
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PAGE 03 RANGOO 00983 211038Z

7. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK MAY WISH TO ADD TO OR COMMENT UPON THIS  
MESSAGE WHEN HE RETURNS TO PEKING. THIS MESSAGE HAD NOT BEEN  
DRAFTED WHEN HE DEPARTED RANGOON.  
BEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADORS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 RANGOON 813, 78 STATE 63340  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** LUNCHEON WITH PRC AMBASSADOR TO BURMA  
**TAGS:** PDIP, CH, BM, (MO YEN CH'UNG), (WOODCOCK, LEONARD)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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